

Dear Senator Moore

Re: Inquiry into Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009 and two related Bills

I write to express my concern about the above bills. I understand that these bills will enable

Medicare funding, access to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and professional indemnity

premium support for midwives providing care for women to give birth in hospital.

Medicare funding for midwifery care is long overdue. It is not acceptable however to exclude

homebirth from this funding and indemnity arrangement. By doing this Australia is totally out of

step with nations such as the United Kingdom, Canada, The Netherlands and New Zealand.

These nations support the rights of women to choose homebirth and fund a registered midwife

through their national health scheme. In New Zealand and the U.K women have a legislative right to choose homebirth.

The intersection of this legislation with the national registration and accreditation of health

professionals will prevent homebirth midwives from registering. I believe this to be an unintended consequence and ask that you take steps to include homebirth within the Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) and related Bills.

I support a system where all consumers are treated equally, with the same access to funding and the same insurance protection.

I am not a midwife, but a mother of one and I am planning more children to be born at home as this is the only natural way for me, personally, to

have a child. Please do not let take away my right to have a baby in a natural for me environment, please do not take my right to choose away from me.

Yours sincerely

Kas Ward (Mrs)